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RALPH B. PASTORIZA (1923-1985)

September 20, 2001

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent & Trademark Office Washington, D.C. 20231

Attn: Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer

Dear Mr. Hack:

We reference the recent notice in the Federal Register concerning an effort by the Department of Commerce to eliminate the paper files at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (Docket No. 010126025-1025-01). This firm, which specializes in the practice of Intellectual Property Law, believes that elimination of the paper files would drastically impact our ability to conduct searches of the prior art. While the database system provides value to us as a supplemental search tool, it does not provide the equivalent of a manual search.

Very truly yours,

KELLY, BAUERSFELD LOWRY & KELLEY, LLP

Scott W. Kelley

SWK/kr